

Using systemic approaches and simulation to scale nature-based infrastructure for climate adaptation

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10632

Countries

Global

Project Name

Using systemic approaches and simulation to scale nature-based infrastructure for climate adaptation

Agencies

UNIDO

Date received by PM

2/11/2021

Review completed by PM

3/31/2021

Program Manager

Aloke Barnwal

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

PIF ☐

CEO Endorsement ☐

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

8 Apr 2021:

Respond to PPO Comment:

- Please add Focal Area Outcomes in Table A.

Focal Area Outcomes have been included in Table A.

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes, the project design is appropriate. While it may be inherent in the project design that the project's focus will to support developing countries, it would be good mention this as appropriate in relevant outcomes/outputs.

GEFSEC 22 March

Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

This has been reflected throughout the CEO endorsement document

In table B:

1.2 Increased confidence of all market participants **in developing countries** in the use and performance on NBI. Market participants include project developers, design and engineering firms, cities, national governments, public and private investors

2.1 Decision makers and infrastructure planners **in developing countries** have access to data on the performance and costs of NBI.

2.2 Decision makers **in developing countries** are able to use the database to compare performance and costs of NBI with conventional grey infrastructure solutions.

2.3 Uncertainties related to the use of NBI begins to decrease. Market participants **in developing countries** begin to trust NBI as a sound and predictable adaptation solution.

3.1 Decision makers **in developing countries** have more knowledge and less uncertainties on the performance of NBI. They hence begin to include NBI in adaptation plans and infrastructure plans.

3.2. Improved capacities of decision makers **in developing countries** to compare the performance and cost of NBI with grey infrastructure

in para 4 the following sentence has been added: **This project is open to NBI proponents from all countries of the world but it is expected that a majority of the NBI proposals will address adaptation issues in the countries most vulnerable to climate change and particular focus of the project will be to support developing countries.**

in para 30:

project outcome 1.2 Increased confidence of all market participants **in developing countries** in the use and performance on NBI.

in para 33:

While this is a project of global nature, it is expected that the majority of the NBI project valuations will be in developing countries as they are the most vulnerable to climate

impacts. In addition, specific attention will be paid to the gender impact of the NBI projects, as is also highlighted in the Annex 2 Project Selection Protocol.

in para 50:

Project outcome 2.1 Decision makers and infrastructure planners in developing countries have access to data on the performance and costs of NBI.

Project outcome 2.2 Decision makers in developing countries are able to use the database to compare performance and costs of NBI with conventional grey infrastructure solutions.

Project outcome 2.3 Uncertainties related to the use of NBI begins to decrease. Market participants in developing countries begin to trust NBI as a sound and predictable adaptation solution.

in para 55:

Project outcome 3.1 Decision makers in developing countries have more knowledge and less uncertainties on the performance of NBI. They hence begin to include NBI in adaptation plans and infrastructure plans.

Project outcome 3.2 Improved capacities of decisionmakers in developing countries to compare the performance and cost of NBI with grey infrastructure

para 104:

The NBI resource center will therefore primarily seek to select NBI valuations from developing countries.

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response
GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response
Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response
Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

There seems to be double entry of number of beneficiaries in core indicator 4. Total number of people trained is 4680 in tracking tool whereas in the project document it is 2340. This is because sub-indicators are entered twice in 2.3 and 3.3. Please review.

GEFSEC 22 March

Thanks. Comment cleared.

GEFSEC April 9, 2021

As discussed, please clarify in the results framework that SCCF funding will provide resources for valuation in developing countries only.

Agency Response
UNIDO Response: 13 Apr 2021

In paras 4, 33, 84 and 104 the following clarification has been provided: The SCCF funding will provide resources for valuations in developing countries only. The project valuations in developed countries will be financed through the co-financing of the MAVA Foundation. The lessons from valuations of developed country projects will help for cross-learning and dissemination in developing countries.

The same clarification has been provided in the CC adaptation tracking tool and in the logical framework additional clarifications were made:

Outcome(s)/immediate objective(s)/	What the target group does differently (change in behaviour)			
	<p>Increased confidence of market participants in developing countries including project developers, design and engineering firms, cities, national governments, public and private investors in the use and performance on NBI.</p> <p>Increased predictability on the performance of NBI for climate adaptation.</p>	<p>Total no. of policies/plans in developing countries that will mainstream climate resilience</p>	<p>Records of engagement with project proponents and stakeholder for the NBI valuations (sex disaggregated data will be collected).</p> <p>Interviews with NBI project proponents and stakeholders involved in the NBI valuations under component 1 on the impact of the NBI valuation on the on-going or new policies and plans that incorporate NBI for climate adaptation (particular emphasis will be put on achieving gender balance among the interviewees and sex-</p>	<p>Increased certainty, predictability and comparability of NBI performance leads to increased confidence of stakeholders in developing countries to plan, design, implement and invest in NBI.</p> <p>The NBI valuations will directly inform and contribute to local, sub-national, national, regional or global policy priorities. Examples of these policies include national adaptation plans (NAP), identification of projects for inclusion in NDCs and national communications to the UNFCCC, infrastructure master plans, urban master plans, rural development plans that involve transport, agriculture, residential developments and more. We expect the project to influence the policies and plans on an incremental basis. SCCF funds will be exclusively used for valuations in developing countries. Co-funding by the MAVA foundation might be used</p>
			disaggregated data will be collected).	for valuations in developed countries in situations where valuable lessons learned can be derived for developing countries.
Outputs (results)	What the project achieves (create a potential)			
	<p>Improved predictability and knowledge on performance and financial valuation of NBI</p>	<p>Total no of NBI valuations carried out through the NBI Resource Center</p>	<p>User records from the NBI Resource Center on the valuation component</p>	<p>The NBI valuations will contribute to the predictability and knowledge generation on the value of NBI in developing countries, including the quantification of co-benefits, the financial performance of NBI projects, under different climate risk scenarios. The new knowledge generated through the NBI valuations will be introduced in the online database so that a robust trackrecord on NBI develops which leads to more certainty and predictability and increases the trust in NBI of all market participants.</p>

	Improved capacity <u>in developing countries</u> to use NBI valuations in infrastructure planning, design, implementation and investment	Total no of people trained (disaggregated male/female)	<p>Total no of stakeholders/project proponent per NBI valuation (Component 1) (sex-disaggregate data will be collected)</p> <p>Total no of participants (sex-disaggregated data) registered on NBI webinars (Component 1)</p> <p>Total no of participants (sex disaggregated data) in MOOC (Component 2)</p> <p>Total no of participants (sex disaggregated data) in high-level capacity building events (Component 4)</p>	Stakeholders who are trained on the valuation of NBI and have increased knowledge on the economic performance of NBI are empowered to advocate for and scale up the use of NBI projects for climate adaptation and other infrastructure services.

The double counting has been corrected the figures in the revised tracking tool are now consistent with the CEO endorsement document and read:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Project Identification							
Project title:	Using systemic approaches and simulation for Scaling Nature-based Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation					GEF project ID:	10757
Country(ies):	Global				Agency project ID:	200172	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNIDO				Council/ CEO Approval date:		
Executing Partner(s):	International Institute for Sustainable Development				Tool submission date:		
Project status at submission:	CEO Endorsement/Approval						
Core Indicators							
Core Indicator 1	Total no. of direct beneficiaries	115000	115000	0	0		
	Male	57500	57500	0	0		
	Female	57500	57500	0	0		
Core Indicator 2	Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	21425	21425	0	0		
Core Indicator 3	Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience	15	15	0	0		
Core Indicator 4	Total no of people trained	2340	2340	0	0		
	Male	1170	1170	0	0		
	Female	1170	1170	0	0		
		Target at:		Achieved at:			
Indicators		Baseline at CEO Endorsement /Approval	PIF	CEO Endorsement / Approval	MTR	TE	Comments

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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Core Indicator 4	Total no of people trained	2340	2340	0	0		
	Male	1170	1170	0	0		
	Female	1170	1170	0	0		
		Target at:		Achieved at:			
Indicators		Baseline at CEO Endorsement /Approval	PIF	CEO Endorsement / Approval	MTR	TE	Comments

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes. The justification is strong.

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

The alternate scenario is sound. Please find a comment below:

- In the project selection protocol, please specify that the focus will be primarily developing countries/cities. SCCF is meant to support highly vulnerable developing countries.

GEFSEC 22 March

Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

The requested changes have been made in the project selection protocol (bottom of first page)

The NBI Resource Centre will invite public, private and civil society entities to submit NBI projects for valuation. It will also solicit NBI projects from strategic partners and encourage stakeholders to submit projects for valuation. This project is open to NBI proponents from all countries of the world. It is expected that a majority of the NBI proposals will come from **developing countries** and those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. There will also be specific attention to the **gender impact** of the NBI projects that are submitted for valuation and project proponents will have to submit all available data on gender impact. Finally, across the project duration the NBI Resource Center will seek to achieve a balance between **NBI in urban and rural areas.**

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes. Please review the inconsistency in the target of core indicator 4 in the project doc and the tracking tool.

Agency Response The double counting in the tracking tool has been corrected the figures in the revised tracking tool are now consistent with the CEO endorsement document

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

A broad map is provided with an indication that the project will focus on most vulnerable countries.

Agency Response

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Stakeholders

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?
Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the
implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of
engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender
differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so,
does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators
and expected results?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes. In line with the project selection protocol, the section may also indicate that gender
will be a key consideration in project selection.

Comment cleared.

Agency Response

he requested changes have been made in the project selection protocol (bottom of first
page)

The NBI Resource Centre will invite public, private and civil society entities to submit
NBI projects for valuation. It will also solicit NBI projects from strategic partners and
encourage stakeholders to submit projects for valuation. **This project is open to NBI
proponents from all countries of the world. It is expected that a majority of the NBI
proposals will come from developing countries and those most vulnerable to the
impacts of climate change. There will also be specific attention to the gender impact of
the NBI projects that are submitted for valuation and project proponents will have to
submit all available data on gender impact. Finally, across the project duration the NBI
Resource Center will seek to achieve a balance between NBI in urban and rural areas.**

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The coordination is described well. Two comments below:

- The PSC TOR indicates 9 members but there are only five organizational representatives. Please confirm if there will be more than one representative from these organizations.
- The Technical Advisory Committee should ideally include representatives from developing countries. If they can't be identified at this stage, please include a provision for adding later.
- Given the strategic nature of this project, we recommend that PMU also engages with GEFSEC for technical and strategic insights during the project implementation.

- Para 138 says the project will source NBI projects from GPSC. GPSC is the knowledge platform of GEF 6 cities program. Please revise to GEF's Sustainable Cities Program (GEF 6 and GEF 7). Also, please add that it will source projects from the LDCF portfolio.

- The project could also explore linkages with WRI's Cities4Forest program which has expressed strong interest to collaborate on NBI in cities.

GEFSEC 22 March

Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

The comments are addressed in:

ad TORs PSC:

We confirm that IISD, GEF, MAVA Foundation and UNIDO will each have a senior representative as well as technical representative per organization on the PSC. Senior representation from the respective organization will be as follows: GEF Secretariat: Manager Special Climate Change Fund; MAVA Foundation: Director Sustainable Economies; UNIDO: Management level staff; IISD: Executive Director IISD Europe

para 132:

The composition of the technical advisory committee will be determined during the inception phase of the project. There will be equal representation of men and women on the committee. There will also be a focus on ensuring developing country representation on the technical advisory committee.

para 131:

Given the strategic nature of this project, the PMU will also regularly engage with the GEF SEC for technical and strategic insights during project implementation.

para 138:

This project will liaise and source NBI projects from the GEF Sustainable Cities Program (GEF 6 and GEF 7) as well as from the LDCF portfolio.

para 140:

The project will also seek to explore linkages with WRI's Cities4Forest program which has expressed a strong interest to collaborate on NBI in cities.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

8 Apr 2021:

Respond to PPO comments:

- Responses to Project reviews must be included in Portal (in Annex B)

Responses to project reviews were uploaded as an annex already at CEO submission and referenced in the respective box: ?Responses to project reviews can be found in Annex B under the project?s roadmap. Responses to project reviews can be found in Annex B under the project?s roadmap.? Nonetheless, the responses are also now directly introduced in Annex B.

Document Title	Category	Prefix	Classification	Last Modified Date
Annex B Responses to project reviews_LC	Project Supporting Document	Others	Official Use Only	2/9/2021 2:26 PM

- As per the Guidelines, the Budget Table must be included in Portal (in Annex E)

A budget table was uploaded as well at CEO submission and can be found in the roadmap section of the project. The following reference was also included in the CEO

document: ?Please refer to Annex F. GEF Budget uploaded under the project?s roadmap.? Nonetheless, the responses are also now directly introduced in Annex E.

Document Title	Category	Prefix	Classification	Last Modified Date
Annex F GEF Budget	Project Supporting Document	Others	Official Use Only	2/10/2021 5:22 PM

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The Agency is requested to address the comments in the review sheet and resubmit.

Yes, the project is recommended for clearance.

Please respond to the following additional comments from the PPO

Please add Focal Area Outcomes in Table A.

Responses to Project reviews must be included in Portal (in Annex B)

As per the Guidelines, the Budget Table must be included in Portal (in Annex E)

GEFSEC April 9, 2021

As discussed, please clarify in the results framework that SCCF funding will provide resources for valuation in developing countries only.

GEFSEC April 14, 2021

All the comments have been addressed, and the project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	3/12/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/9/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/14/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

The proposed SCCF project is a novel initiative that will create an enabling environment for deploying Nature Based Infrastructure (NBI) for improving climate change adaptation of vulnerable communities and ecosystems. It will increase certainty and predictability on the performance of nature based infrastructure by carrying out and demonstrating economic and biophysical valuation of their adaptation, ecosystem services and co-benefits. The project will use innovative and verified simulation methodology which incorporates system based and project finance modelling for the valuation and will integrate climate data from the EU Copernicus Climate Data Store in the models.

In addition to demonstrating valuation of selected Nature Based Infrastructure projects, the project will create an interactive online database for NBI valuation; build capacity of decision makers and users through workshops and a Massive Online Open Course; and develop partnerships for global outreach and uptake of NBI. This will lead to long term sustainability and scalability of project outcomes. The project will also help set up a NBI Resource Center within IISD which will engage with partners globally to create valuable knowledge and evidence to support implementation of nature based solutions.

The project will address a critical barrier of limited understanding of nature's potential to provide adaptation benefits and services and will establish natural infrastructure as tangible and reliable assets for attracting public and private infrastructure investment. The project will adopt a systems based approach and will focus on biologically diverse forests, mangroves, wetlands, grasslands and agricultural lands in rural, urban and key landscapes vulnerable to climate change.

The valuation will also provide a comparative analysis vis-à-vis grey infrastructure to make the economic case of NBI and also to advance greater use of green-grey infrastructure mix for resilience to slow onset and rapid onset impacts of climate change. The project will benefit 115,000 climate vulnerable people and support 21425 hectares of land management for climate resilience. Through the valuation and capacity building support, the project will directly build capacity of 2340 people involved in NBI planning and implementation. By strategically engaging countries in the valuation work, the project is expected to influence 15 adaptation policies and plans to mainstream NBI.

The project has been developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders including with the Mava Foundation which is providing \$2 million co-financing to scale up the project's impact. The project also serves as a direct contribution of the GEF to the nature based solutions action track created by the Global Commission on Adaptation through the Special Climate Change Fund.